

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-16, 37 and 38 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 17, 18, 20-26, 28-33, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 19, 27, 34-36 and 41 are objected to.

Claims 1-16, 18-24, 26-33, 37-38, and 40-41 are canceled

Claims 17, 25, 34-35, and 39 are amended.

No new matter is added.

Claims 17, 25, 34-36, and 39 remain in the case for consideration.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 17, 18, 20-26, 28-33, 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,874,359 issued to Liaw, et al. ("Liaw").

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections. However, in order to further prosecution in a timely fashion, the Applicant has canceled claims 1-16, 18-24, 26-33, 37-38, and 40-41, and has amended claims 17, 25, 34-35, and 39 to include the limitations from the allowable claims as set forth below. Claim 36 depends from claim 35, and thus is also in allowable form without amendment. Therefore, for the reasons set out above, the Applicant submits that claims 17, 25, 34-36, and 39 are in proper form for allowance.

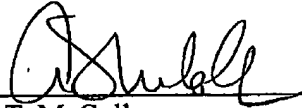
Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 19, 27, 34-36 and 41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the patentable subject matter of these claims. In particular, the Applicant has amended claim 17 to include the limitations of claim 19; the Applicant has amended claim 25 to include the limitations of claim 27; the Applicant has amended claim 34 to include the limitations from claims 25 and 33; the Applicant has amended claim 35 to include the limitations from claims 25 and 33; and the Applicant has amended claim 39 to include the limitations of claim 41.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 17, 25, 34-36, and 39 of the application is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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